Chapter 2

Kalyx

By Mikabe Sesuna

Translating - Mephisto
Proofreading - Lio
Editing - Ecchan
Typesetting - Hakobu, Halcyon
Quality Check - Ecchan, Newspage

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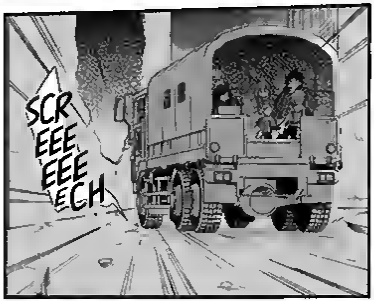
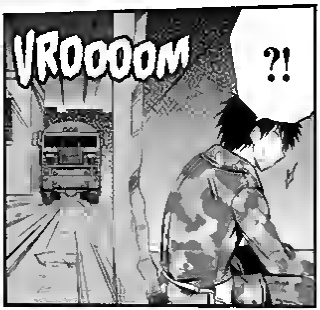
Chapter 2





HOW MANY?
ABOUT 30.
LET'S WRAP THIS UP.
MMKAY THEN...
Chapter 2
[Didn't They Tell You?]

THE COMMANDING OFFICER WHO CAME UP WITH THE PLAN OF ATTACKING THIS LOCATION IS CLEARLY INCOMPETENT, SO DON'T HESITATE TO FIRE HIM.
SCHLR
SCHLR
SCHLR
WHO THE HELL ARE THOSE GUYS?!
SAKURA, I'LL HANDLE THE REAR GUARD.
AFTER ALL, THIS PLAN WAS DOOMED FROM THE START!!
WHACK
GUAH!!
?!

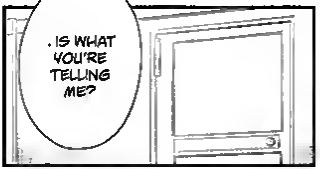
JOLT
RIKKA, COVER US!
STOP HIDING IN THE BACK.
S-SHUT UP! I WASN'T HIDING.
THUMP
TWHP
TWHP
MMM. THEY'RE JUST HIDING BEHIND COVER AND TAKING POTSHOTS.
POP POP POP POP POP
OKAY?!!
CRACK CRACK
TAP
BOOOOOOM
HIMAWARI!
MM!

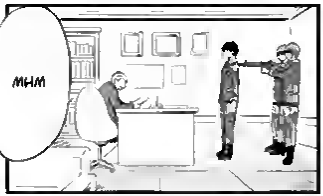
YOU GOT IT.
SOTETSU!!
UWAHH!!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT...?!
BANG BANG BANG
ARE THEY "FLOWER GIRLS" AS WELL?!
LIKE NADEKO?

OH, NADEKO YOU WERE HERE AS WELL.
SEEMS WE'VE MORE OR LESS WRAPPED UP HERE.
IT SEEMS YOUR SEED HAS GERMINATED

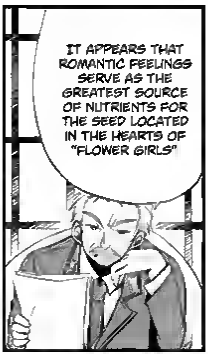
"BY FALLING IN LOVE, THEY AWAKEN SPECIAL ABILITIES"...

CLICK
CLICK
THE DETAILS OF WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DISCUSS WITH YOU IS HIGHLY CLASSIFIED INFORMATION


. IS WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME?


MHM

UPON RECEIVING THAT NUTRITION, THOSE SEEDS BEGIN TO SPROUT,
AND THE GIRLS GAIN THE ABILITY TO FREELY EXTEND ROOTS AND BRANCHES FROM WITHIN THEIR BODIES AND MANIPULATE THEM AT WILL.


IT APPEARS THAT ROMANTIC FEELINGS SERVE AS THE GREATEST SOURCE OF NUTRIENTS FOR THE SEED LOCATED IN THE HEARTS OF "FLOWER GIRLS"

AS YOU SHOULD ALREADY KNOW, IN ORDER TO AVOID CAUSING DAMAGE TO THE FEW PLACES LEFT IN THE WORLD WHERE THE GROUND IS CONSIDERED FERTILE,
IT HAS BECOME TABOO TO USE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION OR LARGE SCALE EXPLOSIVES
WHICH MEANS THAT WAR IS CONDUCTED BY FOOT SOLDIERS
HOWEVER, THE RANGE OVER WHICH FOOT SOLDIERS CAN OPERATE EFFICIENTLY IS EXTREMELY NARROW
THAT LED TO THE MILITARY TURNING ITS EYE TO THE GIRLS WHO HAVE BEEN PARASITIZED BY FLOWERS.
IN THE PREVIOUS BATTLE, YOU SAW FOR YOURSELF THE EFFECTIVENESS WITH WHICH THESE GIRLS CAN BE USED, DID YOU NOT?
TAP
BOOOOOOM
THERE IS NO BETTER TOOL IN THE CURRENT AGE OF WARFARE WHERE MATERIAL AND METHODS ARE EXTREMELY LIMITED.

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ETHICAL QUESTIONS, AS WELL AS HOW NORMAL CITIZENS WOULD FEEL ABOUT A PROGRAM LIKE THIS, THE EXISTENCE OF THE PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN MADE KNOWN TO THE PUBLIC. HOWEVER, THE GIRLS THEMSELVES ARE NOTIFIED OF THEIR OWN SITUATION BEFOREHAND
THE MILITARY HAS CREATED A TOP SECRET PLATOON CALLED THE "FLÖRIS", WHICH IS COMPOSED OF GIRLS WHO HAVE HAD THEIR POWERS AWAKENED AND THEIR PARTNERS
WHAT?!!
YOU, AS HER PARTNER, WILL ALSO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE "FLÖRIS" PLATOON.
AS NADEKO'S POWERS HAVE ALSO BEEN AWAKENED, SHE WILL NOW BE ENLISTED IN THE "FLÖRIS" PLATOON AS WELL.
WAIT, "SOCIAL INTER-ACTIONS"?!
THE FLOWER'S SOURCE OF ENERGY IS DEPENDENT ON HER SOCIAL INTERACTIONS WITH YOU, AFTER ALL.
A "JOB"? I MEAN..
THEN JUST THINK OF IT AS A JOB.
HOLD ON A MOMENT, I DON'T VIEW HER AS AN OBJECT FOR THE SORT OF THING YOU'RE REFERRING TO.

HOW OLD ARE YOU?
24..
THEN YOU SHOULD MORE OR LESS HAVE GRASPED HOW TO INTERACT WITH WOMEN.

THE PERSON YOU ARE DEALING WITH IS A 14-YEAR-OLD CHILD
SOMEONE THAT YOUNG IS STILL VERY NAIVE ABOUT THE WORLD. TO THEM, LOVE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THE WORLD, ENCOMPASSING EVERYTHING.

ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS PLAY THE ROLE OF HER "LOVER" AND TREAT HER LIKE A PRINCESS TO KEEP HER HAPPY AND SATISFIED
THIS WILL LEAD TO THE FLOWER RECEIVING SUFFICIENT SUSTENANCE.
FURTHER-MORE...

WHAT? WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN...?
SMACK
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF YOU DIDN'T GET TOO ATTACHED?
IN TERMS OF LONG-TERM BENEFIT,
SHOO
SHOO
YEAH
IT'S ME.
BZZZZZ
PRIVATE SAWA-MURA.
PLAY THE ROLE OF NADEKO'S "LOVER"...?
CLOSE
.....

OH.. YOU'RE THE GIRL FROM BEFORE.
I AM "FLORIS" PLATOON CAPTAIN...
...2ND LIEUTENANT SAKUNASHI YURINE
UM... HOW IS NADEKO?
SHE IS CURRENTLY RECEIVING THE POST-AWAKENING EXAMINATION WELL, THERE IS UNLIKELY TO BE ANY ABNORMALITIES
IN REGARD TO YOUR TRANSFER, THE PAPERWORK WILL TAKE A FEW DAYS, SO FOR NOW CONTINUE AS PRESENT
FWIP
UNDERSTOOD.
ALSO, REPORT TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE HOSPITAL AT 12:00 NOON TOMORROW IN CASUAL WEAR FOR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
"CASUAL WEAR"? WHAT KIND OF ASSIGNMENT IS THIS GOING TO BE?
WELL... TO SUMMARIZE WHAT IT IS IN ONE WORD...

A DATE.
HEY...
AH-, SAWAMURA-SAN
YEAH THEY'VE ALSO PROVIDED ME WITH MONEY FOR TRAVELING EXPENSES.
UM... THEY ORDERED ME TO HEAD TO TOWN TOGETHER WITH YOU...
...IS WHAT SHE SAID, BUT...
THE MOST IMPORTANT GOAL OF THIS TASK IS TO DEEPEN YOUR BOND WITH NADEKO.

I HEARD BEFOREHAND THAT BRANCHES AND ROOTS WOULD EXTEND ALL SNAKE-LIKE AND TWISTING FROM AROUND WHERE MY WRISTS ARE...
THE FIRST TIME I EXPERIENCED IT, MY IMPRESSION WAS SOMETHING LIKE "OH WOW, I CAN ACTUALLY KIND OF CONTROL THESE EXACTLY HOW I WANT."
ARE YOU FEELING OKAY?
AFTER ALL... THOSE THINGS THAT CAME OUT OF YOUR BODY...
OH, YES, I'M FINE.
THAT'S PRETTY AMAZING.
Snake-like...
you say?
R-RIGHT...
HUH?
ARE THOSE YOUR TRUE FEELINGS?
OH, THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO CONFIRM ABOUT THAT...
I'D LIKE TO APOLOGIZE THOUGH...
FOR UM... FORCING YOU TO BE MY PARTNER.
RATHER THAN AN EMERGENCY MEASURE TAKEN TO MAKE IT OUT ALIVE IN THAT SITUATION, DESPITE NOT ACTUALLY FEELING THAT WAY AT ALL?
SHOULD I CONSIDER THE POSITIVE FEELINGS YOU EXTENDED TOWARDS ME TO BE HOW YOU ACTUALLY FEEL?

IF IT'S THE LATTER CASE, THEN I THINK THE CURRENT SITUATION WOULD BE QUITE UNPLEASANT FOR YOU, RIGHT, NADEKO?
THA-
THAT!
THAT'S NOT EVEN CLOSE TO BEING THE CASE! THOSE WERE MY TRUE FEELINGS!!
M-M-MY HEART BEATS SO MUCH WHEN I'M NEAR YOU, AND R-RIGHT NOW, IT'S GOING OUT OF CONTROL!!!
FLUSH
OVERLOAD
I LIKE YOU SO MUCH... TOO MUCH...!! IT FEELS LIKE MY CHEST IS ON THE VERGE OF EXPLODING!!!
YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH!
IT'S TRUE THAT THE TIMING MAY HAVE SEEMED A BIT CONVENIENT,
BUT THE FACT THAT THE SEED BEGAN TO SPROUT IS PROOF OF MY FEELINGS
HAAH... HAAH... HAAH...

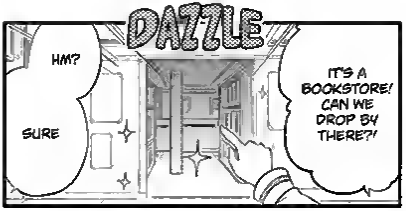
AHHHH
WAIT, WHAT AM I SAY-ING?!!
FLUSH
AH HH HH.
FIDGET
FIDGET
SQUIRM SQUIRM
FIDGET
SQUIRM
FYO~N
OH MAN...
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS BITTERSWEET ATMOS-PHERE...?
FYO~N
F-FOR NOW..
LET'S JUST START HEADING OUT
UM WHERE DO I PAY ?
YOU PAY UP FRONT OVER THERE
OH... I SEE!
SORRY, I DON'T HAVE MUCH EXPERIENCE WITH RIDING BUSES OR GOING TO THE CITY
IS THAT SO?

YOU CAN HAVE THE WINDOW SEAT
OH–
THANK YOU
AND MORE OR LESS EVERY-THING I'VE NEEDED HAS BEEN THERE.
I'VE BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE,
I SEE..
MMM... YEAH ..
OH–
THE SEATS ARE QUITE CRAMPED IF TWO PEOPLE ARE SITTING..
BA-DUMP
VRRRRRRRRRRR

WOW! SO THIS IS OOMIYA?
YEAH, THE MOST PROSPEROUS REGION WITHIN THE COUNTRY OF SAITAMA
SHALL WE JUST WANDER AROUND FOR A BIT?
OKAY
OH–
WHAT'S THAT?
THAT'S THE OLD STATION
IT USED TO BE A TRAIN STATION, BUT NOW IT'S A BUS TERMINAL
IF I'M REMEMBERING CORRECTLY TRAINS ARE THOSE VEHICLES THAT RUN ON ELECTRICITY, RIGHT?
YEAH, THEY WERE A TRANSPORTATION METHOD USED WHEN ELECTRICITY COULD BE RELIABLY PROVIDED

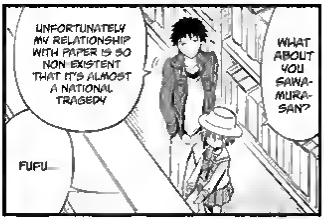
THERE'S A LOT OF PLACES SELLING MASKS, AREN'T THERE ..?
THIS IS THE SHOPPING DISTRICT
YEAH, COUNTER-MEASURES AGAINST SAND ARE THE EASIEST THINGS TO SELL RIGHT NOW AFTER ALL.
THUP THUP THUP THUP THUP
STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP
KYA!!
WHOA!
BAM
YEAH.. IT'S BECOME QUITE RARE FOR FOOD TO BE SOLD ON THE MARKET, AFTER ALL .
THEY'RE FIGHTING ..
DON'T PUSH!
ONLY ONE BAG OF POTATOES PER CUS-TOMER!

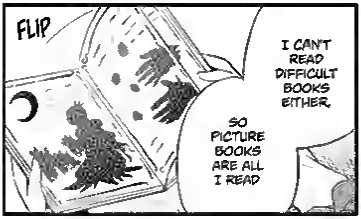
NADEKO.
IS THIS REALLY OKAY WITH YOU?
HUH?
I HEARD THAT THE REASON THOSE PEOPLE ATTACKED THE FARMING FACILITY YESTERDAY WAS THAT THEY WERE STRUGGLING WITH FOOD AS WELL.
I WONDER IF THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIKE THAT IS GOING TO INCREASE..
JUST BECAUSE YOU HAD SOME INTEREST IN SOME GUY LIKE ME,
NOW YOU'RE BEING FORCED TO STAND AND FIGHT ON THE FRONT LINES OF COMBAT.
YES.
ACTUALLY, YOU COULD SAY THAT THIS WAS A DREAM OF MINE.


DAZZLE
IT'S A BOOKSTORE! CAN WE DROP BY THERE?!
HM?
SURE

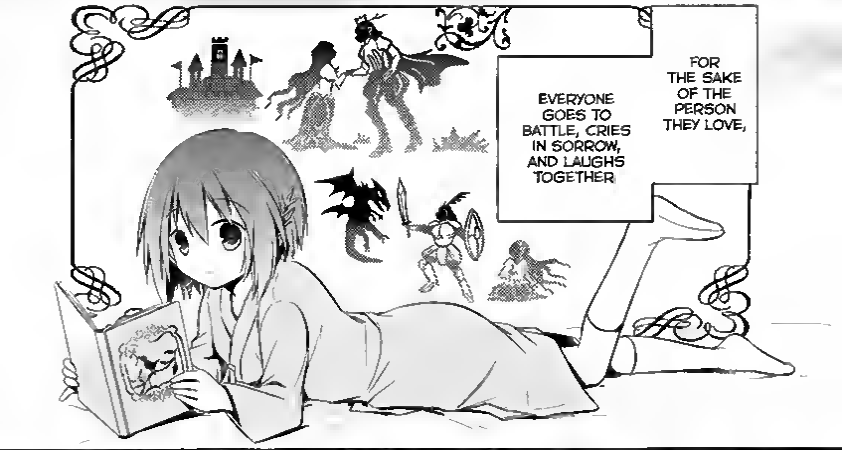
"DREAM"?
OH—

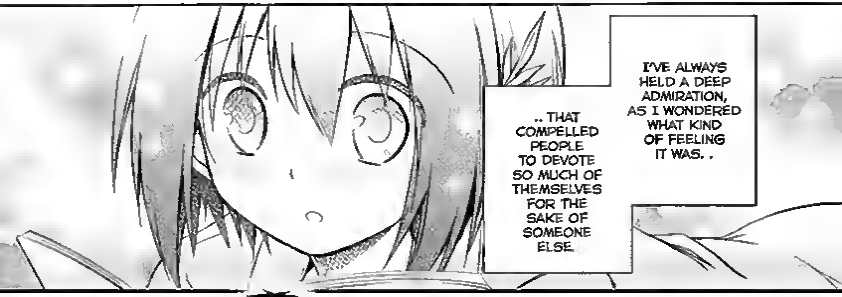
YOU LIKE BOOKS?
Wait♡
YES, THERE WAS A LIBRARY ROOM IN THE HOSPITAL AS WELL.


WHAT ABOUT YOU SAWA-MURA-SAN?
UNFORTUNATELY MY RELATIONSHIP WITH PAPER IS SO NON-EXISTENT THAT IT'S ALMOST A NATIONAL TRAGEDY
FUFU...


FLIP
I CAN'T READ DIFFICULT BOOKS EITHER.
SO PICTURE BOOKS ARE ALL I READ

THERE ARE SO MANY WONDERFUL TALES OF LOVE IN STORIES


EVERYONE GOES TO BATTLE, CRIES IN SORROW, AND LAUGHS TOGETHER
FOR THE SAKE OF THE PERSON THEY LOVE,


.. THAT COMPELLED PEOPLE TO DEVOTE SO MUCH OF THEMSELVES FOR THE SAKE OF SOMEONE ELSE.
I'VE ALWAYS HELD A DEEP ADMIRATION, AS I WONDERED WHAT KIND OF FEELING IT WAS. .

HOW-EVER..
..BEING ABLE TO LIVE DEVOTING THE ENTIRETY OF MY LIFE TO SOMEONE HAS BEEN A DREAM OF MINE.
IF I DON'T FALL IN LOVE, THEN I GET TO STAY IN THE SAFETY OF THE HOSPITAL FOR ALL MY LIFE..

THAT'S WHY I FEEL TRULY BLESSED TO HAVE MET SOMEONE I COULD FALL IN LOVE WITH.

EH?!
HAND IT HERE
GRAB

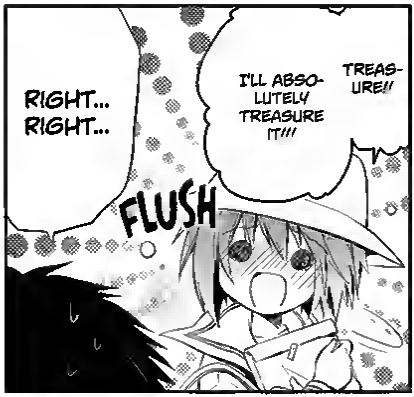
I WONDER IF MY ALLOWANCE IS ENOUGH?!
UWAH! BUT THE PRICE IS..!!

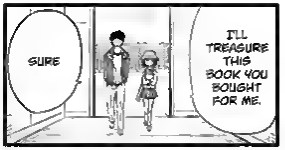
The dream of a fairy
THIS BOOK SEEMS INTERESTING...
I WONDER IF I SHOULD BUY IT...

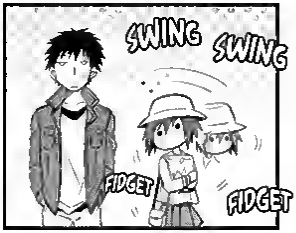
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT ALTHOUGH NOT MUCH ELSE, I DO MAKE SOME MONEY AFTER ALL
EH?!
AH... I'M SORRY.
THIS, PLEASE

AT TIMES LIKE THIS, YOU SHOULD JUST LET THE MAN SHOW OFF.

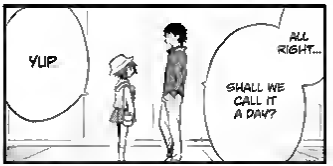
HUG


RIGHT... RIGHT...
I'LL ABSO-LUTELY TREASURE IT!!!
TREAS-URE!!
FLUSH


SURE
I'LL TREASURE THIS BOOK YOU BOUGHT FOR ME.


SWING
SWING
FIDGET
FIDGET

NO
ALTHOUGH ALL WE DID WAS WANDER AROUND FOR A FEW HOURS.
I HAD A LOT OF FUN HEADING OUTSIDE.


YUP.
ALL RIGHT...
SHALL WE CALL IT A DAY?

I SEE.

I'M JUST SO HAPPY THAT I WAS ABLE TO DO THIS WITH YOU, SAWA-MURA-SAN.

UMM...
SAWA-MURA-SAN..
HM?
AH...
OKAY
MMKAY THEN... SEE YOU LATER

UM...
WELL...
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...
...THERE'S SOMETHING I FORGOT TO TELL YOU.

HMM? SO THAT'S NADEKO'S BOY-FRIEND~??
HE LOOKS... WELL... KIND OF PLAIN?
HIS EYES LOOK KIND OF GLOOMY THOUGH, DON'T THEY?

DAZZLE
HM? WE'RE HERE TO APPRAISE HIM!
W-WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING?!
STOP IT!!
DAZZLE
DAZZLE

Jeez!

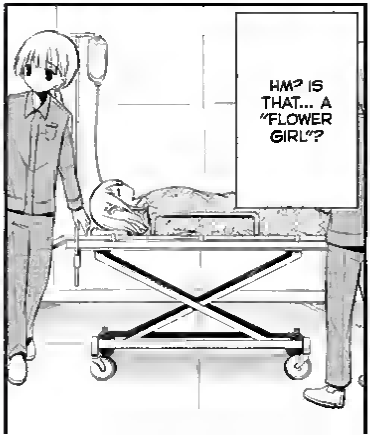
UMM... I'LL TELL YOU ANOTHER TIME!!
BYE!!!
I SEE.
STUMBLE
STUMBLE

Pfft

SHE'S SO PURE...? OR SHOULD I BE SAYING YOUNG...?
FOR HER TO BE SO HAPPY OVER SUCH A SMALL THING...

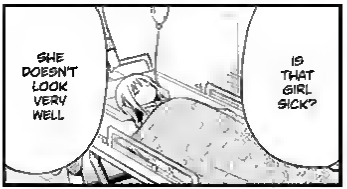
THERE'S NOT MUCH THAT CAN BEAT HER.
YET NONETHE-LESS, SHE CAN WIELD THAT KIND OF POWER ON THE BAT-TLEFIELD

AND IT SEEMS NADEKO HERSELF IS FINE WITH IT... SO...
IT'S THE JOB OF A SOLDIER TO OBEY THE ORDERS OF HIS SUPERIORS.


HM? IS THAT... A "FLOWER GIRL"?

I GUESS I'LL TRY THIS THING OUT.
FILLING THE ROLE AS SOMEONE'S "LOVER".

OH,
YEAH, JUST NOW.
SO YOU'VE RETURNED, PRIVATE SAWAMURA.

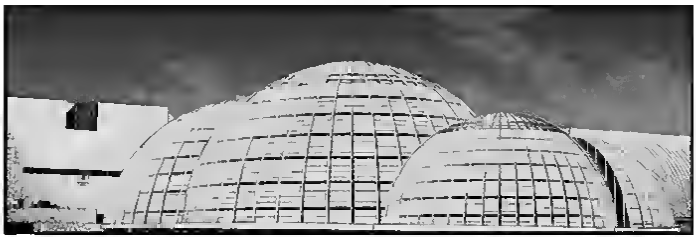

SHE DOESN'T LOOK VERY WELL
IS THAT GIRL SICK?

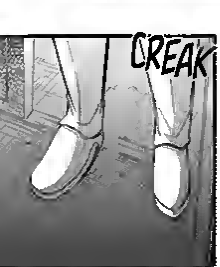
AND HER FACE LOOKS PALE AS WELL...
HOWEVER... IT LOOKS LIKE HER FLOWER HAS WITHERED...

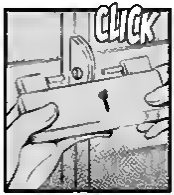
WHAT?!
NO, SHE HAS SIMPLY REACHED THE END OF HER LIFESPAN
SHE PROBABLY HAS 2-3 DAYS LEFT...

EVEN THOUGH SHE'S SO YOUNG?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY LIFE-SPAN...?

DON'T TELL ME NADEKO...
...HASN'T TOLD YOU ANYTHING?
.....?

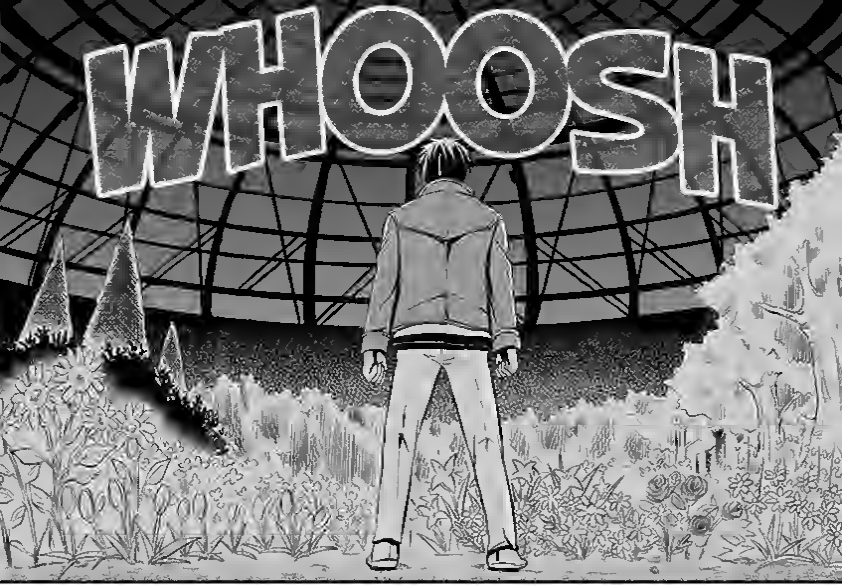



CREAK


CLICK

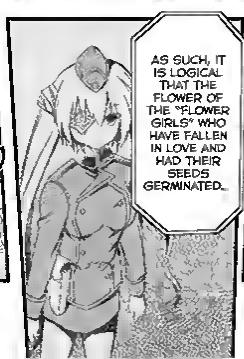
BATTLE
BATTLE

STEP
STEP


WHOOSH

HASN'T TOLD YOU ANY-THING?

...WILL ALSO BLOOM AND WITHER AWAY.
THUD
THUD
THUD


AS SUCH, IT IS LOGICAL THAT THE FLOWER OF THE "FLOWER GIRLS" WHO HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE AND HAD THEIR SEEDS GERMINATED...

TAP
A FLOWER DOES NOT BLOOM IN PERPETUITY

WHEN THAT HAPPENS,
THE PARASITE WILL EXPAND TO TAKE OVER...
...THE REST OF THE INTERNAL ORGANS OF THE GIRLS.
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD

THEY WILL CEASE TO BE HUMAN, AND TURN INTO "FLOWERBEDS".
THUD
HERE AS WELL!
THUD
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

THUD
Hah
HERE AS WELL?!
Hah
HERE TOO!
THUD
THUD
THUD
HAH...
HAH..
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF YOU DIDN'T GET TOO ATTACHED?
SO EVERYONE WAS STAYING HERE..
CRUMPLE
ARE YOU TELLING ME...
...THAT FOR EVERY SINGLE FLOWER BLOOMING HERE..
THAT'S.

ANOTHER GIRL JUST LIKE NADEKO IS BURIED?

NADEKO, YOU'RE BACK.
IT IS TIME.
I WASN'T ABLE TO TELL SAWA-MURA-SAN...
I HAVE TO TELL HIM...
CLICK
YOU HAVE RESOLVED YOURSELF, I PRESUME.
BANG

Kalyx